

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04424 050325Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
HA-05 /078 W

-----022901 050430Z /14

R 041210Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7021
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4424

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S DENTIST ARRESTED

1. DR. ZAFAR NIAZI, FORMER PM BHUTTO'S PERSONAL DENTIST AND THE GUARDIAN OF MOST OF ISLAMABAD'S DIPLOMATIC TEETH, WAS ARRESTED MAY 1 WHILE WORKING IN HIS OFFICE IN ISLAMABAD. THE NIAZI HOUSE HAD BEEN UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE FOR SOME TIME.

2. ENGLISH PRESS REPORTS LINK NIAZI'S ARREST WITH OFFICIAL DISPLEASURE WITH THE COMPLAINTS HE ALLEGEDLY LODGED WITH JAIL AUTHORITIES OVER BHUTTO'S PRISON CONDITIONS. (OBVIOUSLY OUT TO MAKE BHUTTO'S PRISON CONDITIONS AN ISSUE, NIAZI WROTE A LETTER DETAILING THE ALLEGED INSUFFICIENCIES FOR TRANSMITTAL BY US TO GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER WHEN ROCKEFELLER WAS IN PAKISTAN. THE LETTER WAS PASSED, BUT THE GOVERNOR MADE NO REPLY.) IN A DIFFERENT TWIST TO THE STORY, THE URDU DAILY JANG REPORTS THAT NIAZI WAS PICKED UP AFTER HIS NAME WAS LINKED WITH SEVERAL PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY (PPP) WORKERS ARRESTED IN RAWALPINDI LAST WEEK FOR TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES.
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04424 050325Z

3. COMMENT: NIAZI IS WELL KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND DID A THRIVING BUSINESS AS THE ONLY REALLY GOOD, WESTERN-TRAINED AND EQUIPPED DENTIST IN TOWN. HE WAS A SELF-ACKNOWLEDGED BHUTTO SUPPORTER WHO SEEMED TO REVEL IN THE REFLECTED GLORY OF HIS STAR PATIENT. HE ENJOYED PASSING THE WORD THAT HE WAS A CLOSE POLITICAL CONFIDANT

OF THE FORMER PM, AND THERE WERE ALSO PERSISTENT RUMORS
THAT NIAZI WAS A CONDUIT FOR PRO-BHUTTO ELEMENTS, ALLEGEDLY
USING THE TO-ING AND FRO-ING OF HIS DENTAL PRACTICE AND
HIS DENTAL CARE OF THE JAILED FORMER PRIME MINISTER TO
SHUTTLE MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DENTISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA04424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0786
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780594/aaaadcev.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a4ec98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2795738
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO'S DENTIST ARRESTED
TAGS: PINT, PK, (NIAZI, ZAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4ec98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014